

by the Council before the date on which the Council reviews and approves the operating budget of the Council to carry out the responsibilities of the Council for that fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 100-533, title IV, § 410, formerly § 409, as added Pub. L. 103-403, title IV, § 413, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4197; renumbered § 411 and amended Pub. L. 105-135, title III, § 305, Dec. 2, 1997, 111 Stat. 2610; renumbered § 410 and amended Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(9) [title VII, § 705], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-702.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 410 of Pub. L. 100-533 was renumbered section 409 and is classified to section 7109 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-554 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text authorized appropriations to carry out this chapter for fiscal years 1998 through 2000 and limited obligation or expenditure of those funds prior to the budget review by the Council for that fiscal year.

1997—Pub. L. 105-135 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 1995 through 1997, to carry out this chapter, \$350,000.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-135 effective Oct. 1, 1997, see section 3 of Pub. L. 105-135, set out as a note under section 631 of this title.

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§ 7201. Definitions

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, in this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Appropriate State regulatory authority

The term “appropriate State regulatory authority” means the State agency or other authority responsible for the licensure or other regulation of the practice of accounting in the State or States having jurisdiction over a registered public accounting firm or associated person thereof, with respect to the matter in question.

(2) Audit

The term “audit” means an examination of the financial statements of any issuer by an independent public accounting firm in accordance with the rules of the Board or the Commission (or, for the period preceding the adoption of applicable rules of the Board under section 7213 of this title, in accordance with then-applicable generally accepted auditing and related standards for such purposes), for the purpose of expressing an opinion on such statements.

(3) Audit committee

The term “audit committee” means—

(A) a committee (or equivalent body) established by and amongst the board of directors of an issuer for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the issuer and audits of the financial statements of the issuer; and

(B) if no such committee exists with respect to an issuer, the entire board of directors of the issuer.

(4) Audit report

The term “audit report” means a document or other record—

(A) prepared following an audit performed for purposes of compliance by an issuer with the requirements of the securities laws; and

(B) in which a public accounting firm either—

- (i) sets forth the opinion of that firm regarding a financial statement, report, or other document; or
- (ii) asserts that no such opinion can be expressed.

(5) Board

The term “Board” means the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board established under section 7211 of this title.

(6) Commission

The term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(7) Issuer

The term “issuer” means an issuer (as defined in section 78c of this title), the securities